

Message from Nigel Genders, CBE – 15 November 2024.

(following the publication of the [Makin Report](#) and resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury).

Safeguarding (

This has been a very challenging week in the life of the Church of England. The focus of the Church across the country at this time is rightly on what we can do to help victims and survivors of abuse - they must come first in our care and consideration. We also recognise that this is a difficult time for all of us involved in the Church's work in education, whether at a national, diocesan, school, or trust level.

Church schools work tirelessly to keep children safe, happy and flourishing. In rearticulating our vision through the publication of [Our Hope for a Flourishing Schools System](#) we set out our commitment to every child we serve: "All children deserve to love their childhood, finding space for play, exploration, imagination and creativity. They should be surrounded by loving relationships, structures and systems which release and enable life in all its fullness." Effective safeguarding structures and systems are fundamental to this.

All of our schools come under the jurisdiction of an education wide safeguarding framework. They have a duty to follow the government's statutory guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education* when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The National Society for Education and Diocesan Boards of Education remain committed to excellence in partnership working with government, local authorities and other contextual partners, for the flourishing of every child within our care and to continually reviewing and ensuring our safeguarding practice is of the highest standard.

Ofsted and our own SIAMS inspections and inspectors ensure that we are properly focused on this vital work and I pay tribute to the work you all do in schools and dioceses to promote a culture where safeguarding is taken extremely seriously. However, the events of the last week have reminded us once again of the need for us to make every effort to be vigilant and act on any information that will help to keep children safe.

Thank you for all you do in this regard as we continue to serve the children and young people in our care.

Nigel Genders

Church of England Chief Education Officer